

## SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



### SURFACE HAULAGE ACCIDENT

On Tuesday, September 27, 2005, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a truck driver operating a Triple 7 Hauler at a Buchanan County strip mine, sustained cuts to his right elbow and possible fracture of four vertebrae of the lower back when the Hauler turned over. The injured driver was transported to Buchanan General Hospital .

The driver was hauling spoil material, **in reverse**, from the loading point to the dump point which was approximately 250 feet away. While hauling the last load of the shift, the driver contacted the berm for a distance of approximately 30 feet before the berm and bank of a newly constructed pond gave way and the Triple 7 Hauler turned over into the dry pond.

The injured driver is 47 years old with two and one half years experience driving a truck and one and one-half months experience with his present employer.

He stated that visibility was good and no weather related problems were present at the time of the accident, and he was wearing a seat belt.

The roadway from the loading point turned left immediately after leaving the loading point and then was generally straight from there to the dump area.

#### Safety Key Points

- Always wear seat belt when operating mobile equipment.
- When possible, limit travel in reverse. The work area should be designed to keep reverse travel to a minimum.
- Always remain vigilant and be constantly aware of your surroundings.
- When reverse travel is necessary, constantly observe the area behind you by using the rear view mirrors.
- When traveling in reverse keep a maximum distance between the vehicle and the berm.